

Brittani Stewart, Bryan Hartley, Travis Ryder, Stacey Ryder, Stacey Byrd, Devin Barnes, Shawna Crafton, Brianna LaFleur, Sam Hartley, Sarah Stemple, Lindsay Gaskill, Jon Fleet, Josh Hall, Gunner Warlick, James Luna, Audra Mobley, Matt Cryer, Zach Brown, Megan Baker, Amber Scott, Katie Freeman, Chelsea Moore, Amber Barnes, Lauren French, Keisha Sherrill, Sara Lubieski, Reilly Rowland, Learyn Miller, Bethany Gamble, Taylor Herron and Jessie Baker.

HONORING ELEANOR WRIGHT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Eleanor Wright; a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. Eleanor's life was marked by service to our society and love for her family.

Eleanor Wright, a native of Ohio and a long-time Santa Barbara resident, attended the Ethel Walker School and Bennington College where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. Over 50 years ago, she married Clifford Ramsey Wright Jr., who served honorably in our Nation's armed services.

The Wrights moved to the Santa Barbara area in 1959. Immediately upon arrival, Eleanor proved herself to be a key leader in the community by advocating for social justice in a variety of fields. The Santa Barbara Mental Health Association, the Citizens Planning Association, the Family Service Agency, the Community Counseling Association, and the Santa Barbara Civil Service Commission benefited from Eleanor's tireless work on many of her committees. She also co-founded the Phoenix House of Santa Barbara, a facility designed to help mental health patients transition back into the community. In addition to her devotion through service, Eleanor supported a large number of community based action groups which work to make Santa Barbara a healthy and vital community.

Eleanor's legacy will be remembered by her husband, 4 sons, daughter, 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and all of her extended family. As a woman who committed her life to serving others, Eleanor's passing has been deeply felt by the many that were touched by her life. The Santa Barbara community will miss an invaluable community leader and a friend. Please join me in honoring this exemplary American.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 912, a resolution condemning the assassination of former Pakistani

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The 27th of December will be remembered as a mournful day for all of the people of Pakistan and people of goodwill the world over. My deepest sympathies and condolences are with them. As a member of the United States Congress' Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I am deeply saddened by this dastardly effort to circumvent the democratic process which has claimed the life of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto is viewed by many as an attempt to thwart Pakistan's efforts to help restore stability and democracy. Regrettably, since 2001, the security situation in Pakistan has grown increasingly unstable. There have been at least six assassination attempts against President Pervez Musharraf over the past several years.

Additionally, former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto was the target of numerous threats and a previous assassination attempt. In route to a rally in Karachi on October 18, 2007, two explosions occurred shortly after Bhutto left Jinnah International Airport. She was not injured, but the explosions, later found to be a suicide-bomb attack, killed 136 people and injured at least 450. The dead included at least 50 of the security guards from her Pakistan Peoples Party.

Mrs. Bhutto represented the hopes and aspirations of numerous Pakistanis who wished to turn the page on instability and extremism. Mrs. Bhutto sought to change Pakistan with a determination that should have been challenged with ballots, not bullets and bombs.

The Pakistani government's decision to request that the United Kingdom's Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command provide support and assistance in the investigation into the murder of Benazir Bhutto will not be enough if the Pakistani people want more. It is exceedingly important that the people of Pakistan believe that a credible transparent investigation is conducted and that all lawful efforts are pursued to bring the perpetrators of the atrocious crime to justice. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to establish a "Truth Commission" of a capable, competent, and credible cross section of Pakistanis. Additionally, it is of the greatest importance that elections be conducted in a fair, transparent and democratic manner after considered input about the process from political parties.

The future of Pakistan will effect our global security. Pro-Taliban militants and their al-Qaeda allies must not find refuge. Homicidal extremists pose a threat to Pakistan and its neighbors and must not be allowed to offset the winds of democratic change. We in the United States can offer support to Pakistan conditioned on free and fair elections along with a credible transparent investigation.

The noble cause of perfecting the democratization of Pakistan is in the hands of the people of Pakistan. Although international partners can assist in this effort, the future of Pakistan must be hammered out by the people of Pakistan.

Although, this tragic event may call into question the future of democracy in Pakistan, people of goodwill in Pakistan, regardless of political persuasion, must continue the movement to enhance democratic institutions

across their nation knowing that freedom, justice, and democracy are difficult to achieve.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RAY ALEXANDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ray Alexander on his retirement from KRGV television station in Weslaco, TX. His dedication to providing and bringing the news to the Rio Grande Valley has been an invaluable service.

Mr. Alexander has served as general manager for KRGV for 26 years. During his time at the television station, KRGV has become a leader in both national and local news, covering the most important stories and issues of the Valley community. The station has been honored with several regional Edward R. Murrow awards, one National Edward R. Murrow award and an Emmy award. The station has also received the Texas Association of Broadcasters Bonner McClain Award.

The tremendous responsibility of managing a TV station has not stopped Mr. Alexander from serving in civic affairs. He has served in leadership positions for both the National Association of Broadcasters and Texas Association of Broadcasters. He won two of the Texas Association of Broadcasters' most prestigious awards—"Broadcaster of the Year" in 1988 and the "Pioneer of the Year" in 2002.

Mr. Alexander has also gained prominence for his community and charitable work. He has dedicated much of his time to the South Texas Chapter of the United Way; the McAllen, TX chapter of the Boys and Girls Club; and won the Easter Seals Society Rio Grande Valley Chapter "Humanitarian of the Year" in 2001.

As the area continues to grow and face new challenges, it is important to always have dedicated journalists to better inform our citizens. I have had a great working relationship with Mr. Alexander and KRGV throughout my congressional career. As Mr. Alexander moves on, I look forward to working with KRGV in the future in keeping our community abreast of the important issues.

There is no doubt that Mr. Alexander will continue to be an inspirational leader in south Texas. I wish him and his family the best as he moves on to another fulfilling chapter in his life.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPANDING SECTION 179 SMALL BUSINESS EXPENSING

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, in Congress's rush to enact some manner of short-term economic stimulus, we should not lose sight of the bigger picture, that is, that the long-run prosperity of the American worker and his or her family depends on sustained and not one-time economic growth. In general, while economic growth is dependent on many